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The whole

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Life, Actions and Conversation,
OF

Mr. *Haagen Spendsen*

THE

Danish MERCHANT,

from the time of his Birth, to the unfortunate time
of his Death; being Executed on *Wednesday* the
9th of *December* 1702, for Stealing Mrs. *Rawlins*
an Hereiss.

AS ALSO,

His true CASE Written with his own Hand du-
ring his Imprisonment, and delivered to Mr.
Hanks, Chaplain of the *Queens Bench*, and Mr.
Ursin, Minister of the *Danish Church*, wherein
is his whole Declaration concerning his first Ac-
quaintance with Mrs. *Rawlins* the Heiress; the
manner of his Courting her, her kind Expressi-
ons of Love to him, and all particulars relating
to his Marriage with her: The manner of his
Apprehension, Committment, Imprisonment,
Tryal, Sentance of Death, and last Words and
Prayers at the place of Execution: With a Copy
of the Paper found in his Pocket after his Death:

Licensed according to Order.

London, Printed for *Thomas Crane*, near the *Royal-Exchange*, 1702.

The whole Life, Actions and Conversation
of Mr. Haagen Swendsen, &c.

HAagen Swendsen (the subject of the ensuing discourse) was Born at Lunden, a City and Bishopric in Denmark, in the Year of our Lord 1666, his Father was a Merchant of considerable Substance dealing to Norway, England, France and several other Countries Yearly shipping off vast quantities of Deal Boards, and such like Commodity's for those parts; in which sort of Traffick he got a considerable Estate, but having several Children besides this Haagen, who prov'd unfortunate in this way of Merchandizing, his Substance was thereby much Diminished before his Death; however he left Mr. Haagen a considerable part of his Estate, which was forced to Mortgage to pay off his Brothers and Sisters Legacies, and tho' it reduc'd his Stock to a low ebb, by his Care and Industrey, he honestly acquitted himself all his Debts, and began to thrive in the World exceedingly by Trading to England and Holland, till the Year 1697, at which time finding his substance daily to increase by the many fortunate returns of his Merchandizing &c. he began to venture to Traffick to the East and West Indies, but with such repeated Ill success, having lost several Ships by Pirats, and other unhappy accidents rendering him in some few years a broken Merchant earnest, and thereupon was forced to Mortgage his Estate a second time, which was about the year 1700, when being settled his Affairs in Denmark, he had a mind to come into England, which he at last perform'd in order to strengthen and revive his former correspondance in those parts, in hopes thereby once again to retrieve his former

But alas ! tho' Man proposes to himself never so many
advantages, yet if the Almighty disposes things other-
wise in his unsearchable and righteous Providence, 'tis
vain for human Flesh and Blood to strive against the
decrees of Heave; as is manifested in the unfortunate and
funeral Effects of this Deceased Persons Contrivances:
But to return to his proceedings in England; presently
after his Arrival, he took Lodgings in Red-Lyon-street
near Holbourn, where he continued as a privat Gentle-
man for some time: Behaving himself with such a becom-
ing Presence of mind, as rendered him beloved of all Per-
sons who had the happiness of his Conversation, where a-
mong several others, about the middle of June last he ac-
cidentally as well as unhappily became acquainted with Mrs
Benton, who Lodging at one Mr. Blake's an Upholsterer
in Red-Lyon-street, she recommended him to the same
House to take Lodgings; which after having enquired in-
to the Honesty of the People, he at last accepted the pro-
posal & accordingly took a Chamber in the said House where
he remained, some Months, during which time he received
several summs of Mony, upon the account some Ships that
were consign'd to him from Denmark &c. by his corre-
spondance from thence, when about the begining of Octo-
ber last, a Friend and Neighbour of Mrs. Rawlins hap-
pening in his Company, advised him to make Suite to her
assuring him of the greatness of her Substance, and how
easily she might be obtain'd, he thereupon by the perswasion
of others, & enquired further into the truth of the matter,
observing how strictly she was watch'd and look'd after,
having had a sight of her, he communicated his thoughts to
Mrs Benton, who being a Woman quick of apprehension,
proposed this Intreague to him viz. to take a Lodging for
her

her self in the same House, and to go under the notion of being his Sister, which was done accordingly by his apprehension, by means of which he had free access to the Lady and by degrees won her Affection, but wanting an opportunity to get her into the Wedlock Noose was the only thing he wanted, which at last he effected by an Arrest on Mr. Rawlins as she was going to Church, in a Coach; the manner how, it was perform'd, you have already heard in his Tryal lately published, and as for his Behaviour and last Dying Expression, relating to all the whole proceedings in Marrying with her, as also his Apprehension and Imprisonment: take in his following, Case it being written with his own Hand, which I have Transcribed from the Original Copy verbatim.

I do believe the World will expect I should say something for their Satisfaction.

THAT I had a Design to have Mrs. Rawlins for my Wife is most true. I was told of her by a Neighbour and Friend of hers, and then made a farther enquiry, and found her Quality such as I might, without any exceptions, presume to, her Father being the Son of a Tradesman, the next was how to get into her Acquaintance, and not knowing how to be Introduced, I prevail'd with, and perswaded Mrs. Bainton to take a Lodging in the same House with Mrs. Rawlins, by which means I found easie Access to my wishes, and was as welcome to the Family, as if I had been one of themselves, I had their Company on board a Ship, where I gave them an Entertainment, and was invited to dine with them, and by degrees I possess'd my self of Mrs. Rawlins Affection so far, that she seem'd uneasy without me, and frequently importun'd for my speedy Return, and oblig'd me to sit next her at Table, saying, that if I did not she would

could not eat, and treated me with many private cares, by which Lovers who have not frequent Opportunity of speaking, do by Signs and Tokens express themselves. I do declare that I had as good Reception as any Lover could wish for, and all the Incouragement imaginable, inasmuch, that nothing seem'd disagreeable to my intentions, but all things did promise to facilitate my Design with Success, she her self having told me, that she was at her own disposal, and would Marry to please her self. My familiarity with Mrs. Rawlins before my Marriage was so great, that there was no room left for me to practise violence upon her; tho' I must say I was impatient of delays, and wished for an Opportunity to accomplish my Desire.

But as for the unhappy Contrivance of the Arresting Mrs. Rawlins I had no share in it, but was perswaded to consent to it by Mr. H—— and his Wife; and when the Intrigue was brought to perfection, I comply'd, and did hold of the Opportunity, in order to Marry Mrs. Rawlins, which with little difficulty, and less perswasion, I accomplish'd; so having without any force or violence declar'd to the Minister that she was at her own disposal, and free to Marry me, which the Minister declar'd in open Court at my Tryal.

After we had been in Bed comes in one Mr. Bennet a Constable, with some of Mrs. Rawlins's Relations, who requir'd me to go with them before a Justice of Peace, saying they had no Warrant, I refus'd to give Obedience to their Commands, which created some dispute, and my Wife hearing the Noise, came out of the Bed-chamber, desir'd me to be quiet, and let her speak to them, which accordingly she did, in these express Words following, *viz.* Cousin, I have Married this Gentleman with my free consent, he is my Husband, and this is my Wedding Ring, shewing the Ring on her Finger; As for Mr. Bushy, will give him under my Hand he shall come into no trouble. *Then*

Then said they, if it be so, then God bless you both together, and drank a Flask of Wine or two with me and then parted, they were no sooner gone, but I ask'd her whether she would be willing to appear and declare what she had said to her Friends to a Justice of Peace, and she said she would with all her Heart; then we went to Mr. Justice *Baber*, in *Turk Buildings*, and declar'd the same to him, he told her he would take notice of her Faith and bid her stick to that.

The next Day about 11 of the Clock, there came a Constable with a Warrant, and carried us before the Recorder, unto whom she said the same thing over and over, then said the Recorder, *Alas Child, they made you Drunk, and you did not know what you did;* to which she answer'd, *That there were a great many there present that knew her Life and Conversation, that she did not use to be Drunk,* when the Recorder could not prevail with her, he perceiv'd, that my being Personally with her, oblig'd him to stand so firm to her Marriage, he then order'd me to be pull'd away by force from her, at which she fell a weeping; how she afterwards was Lectured by her Friends was sufficiently attested by my Prosecution, Tryal and Sentence; and after I was Committed to *Newgate*, I was remov'd by a *Habeas corpus* to the *Queen's Bench Bar* to be Arraigned, and Pleaded not Guilty to the Indictment. Pleaded for longer time to prepare for my Tryal, was allowed but 4 Days; when I was brought to my Tryal, I mov'd for a Counsel to Plead my Cause, as being a Stranger, and not acquainted with the Laws of *England*, my Life being thus at stake, a powerful Interest against me, and the Court not for me, render'd my Cause so despicable & deplorable, & as for some of my Evidence I do verily believe they were Bribed by the adverse Party, others taken off by sinister Art, and some hinder'd by force from appearing in Court for me. As for Mr. Justice *Baber*, he shew'd himself but coldly in giving his

ny, and said, that my Wife did confess before him, that she was Married by her own free Consent, but at the same time he added, that she seemed very much disorder'd, for that Gentleman I forgive him, and shall leave it to be judge between him and me.

It is to be noted, That my Wife did not deny in open Court, that she had made the Declaration aforesaid, of her Marriage to Mr. *Bene* Constable, and others, that Night we were Married ; but said, she did not know what she did when she said so, and many other things she positively upon Oath denied at my Trial, which makes me have pity on her poor Soul, considering she confessed many things at Mrs. *Bainton's* Trial, which she denied upon Oath at mine, the World may see that it is to be a Stranger, and unacquainted with the Laws; nay, I myself heard my Wife openly Confess in Court in Mrs. *Bainton's* Trial, that there was a Young Lady in the World who was at her own disposal, that wished me a good Wife, and at last confessed she her self the Person.

Among my many Misfortunes I was represented by my Wife's Friends in this Court, to be a Sharper and a Bully, but I called in and produced several Gentlemen of Repute, to give account of my Life and Conversation, who have accordingly attested the Honesty of my Principles by Practice,

It is further observable how my Jury disagreed about the Verdict, I was one of them Mr. *Erasmus Johnson*, a Person to me altogether a Stranger, for I declare in the presence of Almighty God, that I do not remember to have been in his Company three times in my Life, except in Church; this Mr. *Johnson* alledged, that none of the Evidence did dare to Swear that I had any hand in the Arrest, nor used any Force or Violence to the Gentlewoman, but she confessed the Marriage which was proved by several Witnesses, which rendred my Case so hard, that said Mr. *Johnson* insisted upon it to have me discharged according to the Dictates of his conscience, but at last he was over-ruled.

Since my conviction I have used all the means I could to procure Pardon, but finding little or no probability of it, I am now a going to beg for entrance at the Gate of Mercy in Heaven, which I beseech God to open for me.

I expected my Trial should be published that the World might see my treatment, what I have done, and what I have left undone in my Journey, but I am inform'd it may not be Printed. I have said this only for my self Justice, altho' I could say a great deal more of Moment to my purpose, but my time being so very short and precious, I must improve that little time to the saving of my most precious part my Soul.

I humbly beseech Mankind to believe me, and what I have said or shall say are the Words of a dying Man, this is not a time for me to Equivocate, to go out of the World with a Lye in my Mouth; I do therefore declare to the great omnipotent God of Heaven to my Witness, that I have asserted to the best of my Knowledge but the Truth, nor utter'd a Syllable out of bitterness of Heart against any Person whatsoever, but so far from it, I frankly forgive all my Enemies, and beseech God to put it in their Hearts to repent of their Sins.

As for my Wife I am so much in Charity with her, that I cannot believe Severity extended to me did altogether proceed from her self, but her coming to spill my Blood makes the Guilt her own. God of his great Mercy give her true Sense of her Crimes, that the heavy Judgment hanging over her Head may not descend on her.

As for Mrs. Beinton, who is likewise under Sentence of Death on the account with my self as I have in the Court, so do I now again positively declare she had no hand in the Intreague of my marriage, any more than I did by my Special Direction and Perswasion; for Mrs. Bainton was a stranger to Mrs. Rawlins, until the unhappy Contrivance of my marriage made them acquainted, neither did I know Mrs. Bainton till June last, tho' some has been pleas'd to say that I kept her Company for three Years, and had two Children by her, all which I declare is a wrong Notion, and nothing of Truth in it. The only load I have on my conscience is her Death, of which I am the unhappy Instrument. I beseech God in his mercy to move the Clemency to spare her Life, that her Blood may not rise in Judgment against me.

As for my self I am now a going to suffer an ignominious Death, for which my own Conscience doth not accuse me of, but the rigour of the Law made it my unpardonable Crime. And as I forgive all Mankind, so I beseech God of his great mercy to vouchsafe them Forgiveness of those whom thro' Inadvertency, or otherways I have injured, beseeching God of his great mercy to vouchsafe them Forgiveness whensoever they shall ask it.

My great comfort is that I have reconciled my self with my God, and I Die in my Natural Senses, and that short time I have had since my Conversion to my Saviour, I have not mispent.

And now O Lord God of thy infinite Goodness hear my Prayer, pardon my Offences, and forgive me my Sins, forgive mine Enemies, and lay not my Blood to their charge, but grant that a Sincere Repentance may wash away their Guilt.

I am now a going out of this Vale of calamity and sin, to my eternal repose, where thro' the merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ, I hope to see his glory; and so I conclude, O Lord receive my Soul into thy boundless Mercy for the Merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

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HAAGEN. SWE

Joshua Hanks chaplin of the Queen's Bench. and George Wray M^r of the Danish church.

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13